

What is claimed is:

1. A sensor offset correction method for a vehicle comprising:

generating a first offset correction signal for a vehicle dynamic sensor at a sensor power-up;

generating a second offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor when the vehicle is moving; and

correcting said vehicle dynamic sensor in response to at least one of said first offset correction signal and said second offset correction signal.

2. A method as in claim 1 further comprising:

generating a third offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor when the vehicle is at rest; and

correcting said vehicle dynamic sensor in response to said third offset correction signal.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said third offset correction signal further comprises:

stopping the vehicle; and

delaying generating said third offset correction signal thereby reducing influence of transient signals on said third offset correction signal.

4. A method as in claim 3, wherein generating said third offset correction signal further comprises:

generating said third offset correction signal in response to said vehicle dynamic sensor indicating a change in lateral acceleration or longitudinal acceleration.

5. A method as in claim 3 further comprising:

delaying generating said third offset correction signal until vehicle turning has ceased.

6. A method as in claim 3 further comprising:

compensating for an initialization occurring during a vehicle turn table event when the vehicle is standing still following said initialization.

7. A method as in claim 1, wherein correcting said vehicle dynamic sensor further comprises:

generating a filtered roll rate of zero; and

generating a filtered yaw rate of zero.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said second offset correction signal further comprises:

pausing offset compensation in response to continuous vehicle turning for a specified time.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said second offset correction signal further comprises:

detecting a non-zero roll rate value signal;

compensating for said roll rate value signal continuously by an amount substantially equal to a maximum temperature drift rate of said roll rate value signal;

detecting a non-zero yaw rate value signal;

compensating for said yaw rate value signal continuously by an amount substantially equal to a maximum temperature drift rate of said roll rate value signal.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said second offset correction signal further comprises:

detecting a non-zero value for a road bank angle signal;

adjusting a lateral acceleration offset, such that lateral acceleration drives said road bank angle signal to zero.

11. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said second offset correction signal further comprises:

detecting a non-zero value for a average road pitch angle signal; and

adjusting a longitudinal acceleration offset, such that lateral acceleration drives said road bank angle signal to zero.

12. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said first offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor further comprises:

pausing an offset correction when an RSC sensor disturbance flag is set or during events from at least one of ABS, AYC, TCS, or RSC.

13. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said first offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor further comprises:

initializing said sensor; and
substantially eliminating D.C. bias present at initialization of said sensor.

14. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said first offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor further comprises:

generating said first offset correction signal such that a resultant filtered roll rate is approximately zero;

generating said first offset correction signal such that a resultant filtered yaw rate is approximately zero.

15. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said first offset correction signal further comprises:

in response to the vehicle moving prior to completion of initialization, averaging offset values previously acquired and using them as said first offset correction signal.

16. A method as in claim 1, wherein generating said first offset correction signal further comprises:

generating said first offset approximately equal to a previously stored sensor signal from a previous driving cycle.

17. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising compensating for a valid signal bias in said vehicle dynamic sensor.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein compensating for said valid signal bias further comprises adjusting an electrical long term bias over time with a minute adjustment at each sampling time or a sliding mode control.

19. A sensor offset correction method for a vehicle comprising:

generating a first offset correction signal for a vehicle dynamic sensor at a sensor power-up in response to a DC bias;

generating a temperature drift signal for said sensor;

generating a second offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor when the

vehicle is moving in response to said temperature drift signal;

generating a third offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor when the vehicle is at rest and said vehicle dynamic sensor is below an accuracy threshold; and

correcting said vehicle dynamic sensor in response to said first offset correction signal, said second offset correction signal and said third offset correction signal.

20. A method as in claim 19, wherein generating said third offset correction signal further comprises:

generating said third offset correction signal in response to said vehicle dynamic sensor indicating a change in lateral acceleration or longitudinal acceleration;

delaying generating said third offset correction signal until vehicle turning has ceased;

compensating for an initialization occurring during a vehicle turn table event when the vehicle is standing still following said initialization.

21. A method as in claim 19, wherein generating said second offset correction signal further comprises:

pausing offset compensation in response to continuous vehicle turning for a specified time;

detecting a non-zero roll rate value signal;

compensating for said roll rate value signal continuously by an amount substantially equal to a maximum temperature drift rate of said roll rate value signal;

detecting a non-zero yaw rate value signal;

detecting a non-zero value for a road bank angle signal;

adjusting a lateral acceleration offset, such that lateral acceleration drives said road bank angle signal to zero;

detecting a non-zero value for a average road pitch angle signal; and

adjusting a longitudinal acceleration offset, such that lateral acceleration drives said road bank angle signal to zero.

22. A method as in claim 19, wherein generating said first offset correction signal for said vehicle dynamic sensor further comprises:

pausing an offset correction when an RSC sensor disturbance flag is set or during events from at least one of ABS, AYC, TCS, or RSC;

initializing said sensor;

generating said first offset correction signal such that a filtered roll rate is approximately zero;

generating said first offset correction signal such that a filtered yaw rate is approximately zero;

in response to the vehicle moving prior to completion of initialization, averaging offset

values previously acquired and using them as said first offset correction signal; and

generating said first offset approximately equal to a previously stored sensor signal from a previous driving cycle.

23. A control system for an automotive vehicle having a vehicle body comprising:

a cluster of vehicle dynamic sensors positioned within the vehicle body adapted to generate a plurality of vehicle dynamic signals;

and

a controller adapted to receive said plurality of vehicle dynamic signals,

said controller further adapted to generate a first offset correction signal for one of said cluster of said vehicle dynamic sensors in response to a DC bias and at a sensor power-up,

said controller further adapted to generate a second offset correction signal for said one of said cluster of said vehicle dynamic sensors in response to a signal equivalent to a temperature drift signal and when the vehicle is moving,

said controller further adapted to generate a third offset correction signal for said one of said cluster of said vehicle dynamic sensors when the vehicle is at rest and said one of said cluster of said vehicle dynamic sensors is below an accuracy threshold,

said controller further adapted to correct said one of said cluster of said vehicle dynamic sensors in response to said first offset

correction signal, said second offset correction signal and said third offset correction signal.